

European Positioning Navigation and Timing Industry Council

tel: +44 (0) 203 1375249 | email: info@epicforum.org | web: www.epicforum.org

The Honourable Julius Genachowski Chairman Federal Communications Commission Room 8-B201 445 12th Street, SW Washington DC 20554

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Dear Mr Chairman

<u>FCC File No SAT-Mod-20101118–00239, LightSquared Subsidiary LLC Request for Modification of Its Authority for Ancillary Terrestrial Component.</u>

The European Position, Navigation and Timing Industry Council (EPIC) is a trade association representing the concerns of a diverse group of companies with an operational interest in all aspects of PNT, including GNSS and specifically GPS. Though we have a role within Europe, our members are international companies whose operations frequently occur within the United States.

We are deeply concerned that the proposal by LightSquared, referenced above, will interfere with GPS receiver operation. GPS is a unique utility used by our members both in the United States and internationally, underpinning services providing commercial, environmental and above all safety benefits to the PNT community. Though we understand this is an internal US matter, it is our belief that it is already having international repercussions.

The disruption or interference of GPS would jeopardise billions of dollars of US investment as well as that of our members. Other points include:

- International GNSS systems such as GLONASS and the planned Galileo and Beidu-2 use the L-Band frequencies of 1559-1610MHz for primary civil navigation – interference from the proposed LightSquared terrestrial component would affect services using these constellations as well as GPS.
- Under ITU international treaty, the frequencies neighbouring this band have been used for space communications, radio navigation and radio astronomy since the 1970s, creating a manageable interference environment for GNSS equipment.
- The International GNSS Committee (ICG) has encouraged other GNSS systems to be interoperable with GPS, sharing the same L1 frequency band which in turn has led to more wideband multi-mode GNSS being deployed globally

- The US Federal Communications Commission in Jan 2011 conditionally approved a waiver, which would allow a terrestrial cellular network to be built in the United States, with 40,000 base stations licensed up to 15kW of power using frequencies immediately adjacent to the GNSS L-Band (1525-1559 MHz).
- Analysis shows that this proposal could cause severe interference to GNSS equipment, including those on international aircraft and vessels routinely travelling to the US. GNSS equipment used on spacecraft is currently being evaluated.
- There has been absolutely no warning of this whatsoever through the ITU, ICAO, UN Office for Outer Space Affairs, International GNSS Committee or other international bodies prior to the 2011 FCC order.

Combined US and International stated intent, efforts and investments have been and are predicated on the understanding that the L-Band frequencies are for the civil GNSS signal and as such, any possible disruption of the band should be avoided. EPIC joins the other members of the global PNT community in urging the FCC to conduct independent technical interference analysis prior to granting a waiver to effectively allow a reallocation of spectrum use from mobile satellite space service to terrestrial wireless service that is adjacent to the band where GPS operates. Further, we urge the FCC to consider this request from LightSquared under the Notice of Proposed Rule-Making process initiated in ET Docket No. 10-142 to ensure adequate opportunity for public comment.

Yours sincerely

John Wilde Chief Executive

Direct telephone: +44 (0) 118 324 0172

Email: john.wilde@dwint.com

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